

Subpart A—Apple Market Loss Payment Program

§ 1470.1 Applicability.

(a) The regulations in this subpart are applicable to producers of 1998 and 1999 crop of apple production. These regulations set forth the terms and conditions under which the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) shall provide payments to apple producers who have applied to participate in the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Program in accordance with section 811 of Public Law 106-387. Additional terms and conditions may be set forth in the payment application that must be executed by participants to receive a market loss payment for apples.

(b) Payments shall be available only for apples produced and harvested in the United States.

§ 1470.2 Administration

(a) The Apple Market Loss Payment Program shall be administered under the general supervision of the Executive Vice President, CCC, or a designee, and shall be carried out in the field by State and county Farm Service Agency committees (State and county committees) and FSA employees.

(b) State and county committees, and representatives and employees thereof, do not have the authority to modify or waive any of the provisions of the regulations of this subpart.

(c) The State committee shall take any action required by the regulations of this subpart that has not been taken by the county committee. The State committee shall also:

(1) Correct, or require the county committee to correct, any action taken by such county committee that is not in accordance with the regulations of this subpart; and

(2) Require a county committee to withhold taking any action that is not in accordance with the regulations of this subpart.

(d) No provision or delegation of this subpart to a State or county committee shall preclude the Executive Vice President, CCC, or a designee, from determining any question arising under the program or from reversing or modifying any determination made by the State or county committee.

(e) The Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs, FSA, may authorize State and county committees to waive or modify deadlines and other program requirements in cases where lateness or failure to meet such other requirements do not affect adversely the operation of the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment program and does not violate statutory limitations on the program.

(f) Payment applications and related documents not executed in accordance with the terms and conditions determined and announced by CCC, including any purported execution outside of the dates authorized by CCC, shall be null and void unless the Executive Vice President, CCC, shall otherwise allow.

§ 1470.3 Definitions.

The definitions set forth in this section shall be applicable for all purposes of administering the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment program established by this subpart.

Apple Operation means any person or group of persons who as a single unit as determined by CCC, produce and market apples in the United States and which has elected to participate in the program authorized by the part.

Application means Form CCC-891, the Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Application.

Application period means March 5, 2001 through April 13, 2001.

Commodity Credit Corporation or CCC means the Commodity Credit Corporation.

County committee means the FSA county committee.

County office means the local FSA office.

Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Deputy Administrator means the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs (DAFP), Farm Service Agency or a designee.

Farm Service Agency or FSA means the Farm Service Agency of the Department.

Eligible production means apples that had been produced in the United States anytime during the 1998 and or 1999 crop year, subject to a maximum of 1,600,000 pounds per apple operation.

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Higher production year means the crop year, either 1998 or 1999, as selected by the apple operation, during which apples were produced.

Payment pounds means the pounds of apples for which an operation is eligible to be paid under this subpart.

Person means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, estate, trust association, cooperative, or other business enterprise or other legal entity who is, or whose members are, a citizen of, or legal resident alien or aliens in the United States.

United States means the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Verifiable production records means evidence that is used to substantiate the amount of production reported and that can be verified by CCC through an independent source.

§ 1470.4 Time and method of application.

(a) Apple producers may obtain an application, Form CCC-891 (Apple Market Loss Assistance Payment Application), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by facsimile from any county FSA office. In addition, applicants may download a copy of the CCC-891 at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

(b) A request for benefits under this subpart must be submitted on a completed Form CCC-891. The Form CCC-891 should be submitted to the county FSA office serving the county where the apple operation is located but, in any case, must be received by the county FSA office by the close of business on April 13, 2001. Applications not received by the close of business on April 13, 2001, will be disapproved as not having been timely filed and the apple operation will not be eligible for benefits under this program.

(c) All persons who share in an apple operation's total production must certify on the same CCC-891 in order to obtain the maximum eligible quantity of the higher crop year of 1998 and 1999 of the apple operation before the application is complete.

(d) The apple operation requesting benefits under this subpart must certify with respect to the accuracy and

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truthfulness of the information provided in their application for benefits. All information provided is subject to verification and spot checks by CCC. Refusal to allow CCC or any other agency of the Department of Agriculture to verify any information provided will result in a determination of ineligibility. Data furnished by the applicant will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, without it program benefits will not be approved. Providing a false certification to the Government is punishable by imprisonment, fines and other penalties.

§ 1470.5 Eligibility.

(a) To be eligible to receive cash payment under this subpart, an apple operation must:

(1) Have produced apples in the United States anytime during the 1998 and/or 1999 crop year;

(2) Not have been compensated for the same market loss by any other Federal programs, except an indemnity provided under a policy or plan or insurance offered under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501).

(3) Apply for payments during the application period.

(b) Payments may be made for losses suffered by an eligible producer who is now deceased or is a dissolved entity if a representative who currently has authority to enter into a contract for the producer signs the application for payment. Proof of authority to sign for the deceased producer or dissolved entity must be provided. If a producer is now a dissolved general partnership or joint venture, all members of the general partnership or joint venture at the time of dissolution or their duly authorized representatives must sign the application for payment.

(c) An apple operation must submit a timely application and comply with all other terms and conditions of this subpart and instructions issued by CCC, as well as comply with those instructions that are otherwise contained in the application to be eligible for benefits under this subpart.